

**State Planning Project for the Uninsured  
Data Synthesis Workgroup  
August 22, 2005 Update to the Advisory Council**

The Data Synthesis Workgroup meets monthly to provide advice and direction in several of the data collection undertakings. Members of the workgroup assist data collection contractors in framing data collection instruments. They also provide comment and suggestions on data reports to help assure that project activities address the needs of the project and federal grant requirements. The Data Synthesis Workgroup is engaged in the following activities:

**DATA COLLECTION**

The Data Synthesis Workgroup will collect data via five data gathering activities:

- A random-digit-dialed household survey that will target 450 uninsured respondents in each of seven regions throughout Michigan.
- An employer survey of 12,000 randomly selected businesses around the state.
- Town hall meetings with consumers, providers, policy makers, purchasers and the community at large.
- Focus groups with employers and insurance brokers/agents.
- Key informant interviews with employers and policy makers to better understand attitudes toward universal coverage, as well as cost, regional variation, feasibility and legislative implications.

Data from these sources will provide information to identify the size and characteristics of the uninsured population in Michigan and some of the reasons why they do not currently have health insurance. The employer surveys and the focus groups will be used to develop a synopsis of the impediments that keep businesses from offering health insurance as an employee benefit.

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

The development of options by the Models Development Workgroup will rely on information from the Data Synthesis Workgroup to inform its deliberations and recommendations. The landscape analysis, which is currently being developed, is a profile of health insurance and health coverage options that are currently available in Michigan.